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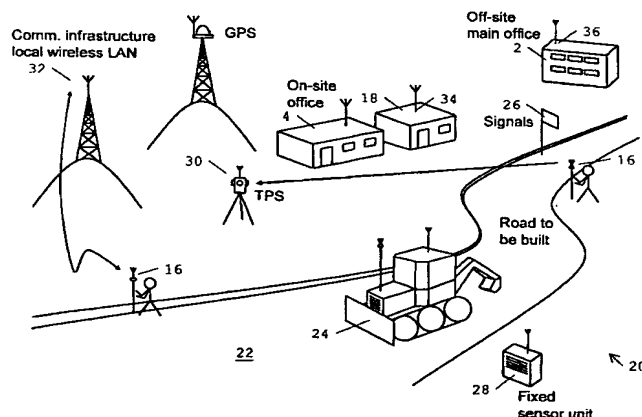
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(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR MANAGING INFORMATION EXCHANGES BETWEEN APPARATUS ON A WORKSITE



(57) Abstract: Operations in a worksite (20) are managed by networking at least some items of apparatus (4, 16, 24, 26, 30, 28, 34) which perform tasks in connection with said worksite and which receive and/or send data. The items of apparatus are organized in hierarchical levels according to a determined dependency relationship of the worksite. Communications are made with an electronic data network comprising management means (74, 76, 66, 64) cooperating with a plurality of communications interfaces (42-46), a given item of apparatus having a data link with a specified communications interface. The management means stores a correspondence between each item of apparatus and an address structure reflecting the hierarchical position of that item of apparatus (4, 16, 24, 26, 30, 28, 34) in the determined dependency relationship of the worksite. It uses that correspondence to establish a communications link with a selected item of apparatus, via its communications interface, in response to a call addressed with an address structure reflecting the hierarchical position of that selected item of apparatus.

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